

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A SiC-based composite material capable of use as an inner coating for an aluminium smelting furnace or as an inner coating for a fused salt electrolytic cell, wherein said composite material has been prepared from a precursor mixture comprising at least one β -SiC precursor and at least one carbonated resin, and wherein said composite material contains inclusions, and wherein at least one part thereof comprises α -SiC, in a β -SiC matrix.